

Women in the Word
Acts 24 – 26

April 23, 2015

To be continued...
— A STUDY OF ACTS —

1. Read Acts 24:1-21. This is Paul's hearing before the Roman governor, Felix. Chart the specific accusations against Paul in verses 5-7 and his response to each accusation in verses 11-12, 14-15 and 17-21.

Accusations:

Paul's defense:

2. Look again at Acts 24:14-15. List the three ways Paul approaches his God.

Record what the following verses teach us about approaching God in the same ways as Paul:

Psalm 100:1-4:

John 6:40:

2 Corinthians 4:13-14:

3. Read Acts 24:22-27. Record everything we learn about Felix in these verses. What do you conclude about this man's character? Contrast his character with Paul's based on both this chapter and everything we've learned about Paul throughout Acts.

4. Read Acts 25:1-5. Festus has replaced Felix as governor. After two years, Paul is still in prison awaiting a verdict. Look back at Acts 23:12-15. What scheme have the Jewish authorities revived?

Festus unknowingly foils their plot and behaves more justly than the Jews. What is his reason for keeping Paul in custody in Caesarea according to Acts 25:16?

5. Read Acts 25:6-12. What does Paul accomplish by appealing to Caesar? Also see Acts 19:21 and Acts 23:11.
6. Read Acts 25:13-27. What does Festus hope that King Agrippa will help him accomplish according to verses 26-27? Why has this previously proven to be a difficult task for him? Also see Acts 25:7.

7. Read Acts 26:1-23 where Paul testifies before Agrippa. Summarize Paul's testimony:

Life before his conversion (verses 4-11):

His conversion experience (verses 12-18):

His life and purpose as a Christian (verses 19-23):

Using the same pattern as above, briefly record your testimony.

8. Look back at Acts 26:6-7. What does Paul mean by the “hope in the promise made by God”? Also see Acts 13:23 and 1 Peter 1:3-6.

9. Read Acts 26:24-32. How does Festus respond to Paul’s testimony? What does his response reveal about him? Also see Acts 25:18-20.

How does King Agrippa respond to Paul’s testimony? What does his response reveal about him? Also see Acts 26:2-3 and 26:26-27.

In your own words, what is Paul’s chief desire for both these men and all who do not yet know Christ according to Acts 26:28-29?

Is there someone in your life who you desire to become a Christ follower? What steps can you take to encourage them toward that decision today?

Paul shared his conversion story with clarity and boldness. Take a moment and pray that you will have an opportunity to share *your* conversion story with this individual.

10. Do you have a personal prayer request to share with your small group?

This Court is Now in Session!

The Honorable Christ Jesus is presiding...

Paul's Defense Before Felix

Acts 24:1-27

- Paul proclaims his innocence before Governor Felix
- Felix _____ in deciding Paul's case.
- Paul uses every opportunity to share his faith with Felix.
- Felix left Paul in prison for 2 years.

***Apply God's Word to your life today and every day!
Trust God's timing even when it is hard.***

Paul's Defense Before Festus

Acts 25:1-27

- Paul again refutes the false charges brought against him.
- Festus declines to hand down a verdict.
- Paul appeals his case to Rome in order to avoid being sent to Jerusalem.
- Festus seeks the help of King Agrippa in writing formal charges against Paul.
- The Roman government behaves more justly than the Jewish leadership.

***As Christians, let's be the fairest and most _____
people we know.***

Paul Testifies Before Festus and King Agrippa

Acts 26:1-32

- Paul recounts his conversion and commissioning by Jesus.
- Paul's testimony: Salvation is available to ALL who choose to believe.
- Festus' response to the gospel: rude interruption and outright dismissal
- Agrippa's response to the gospel: scornful _____

***Pray for the lost and
share the gospel at every opportunity!***

**Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord,
the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day... 2 Timothy 4:8 NIV**

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Ephesians 4:18,20-24 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Psalms 37:7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

Psalms 37:39-40 The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."

Acts 23:11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you God?

Mark 3:21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (NIV)